Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 090293

65
ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIE-00 /013 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/PAN:RBHOWARD:BK
APPROVED BY ARA/PAN:ENADEAU
---------- 070524
O 142303Z APR 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE
INFO PANCANAL
USCINCSO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 090293

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJECT: WHITE HOUSE BRIEFING

1. FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR RON NESSEN'S NOON BRIEFING TODAY. THIS TEXT IS AN AMPLIFICATION OF THE EARLIER VERSION PASSED TO THE EMBASSY BY PHONE. WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED AND ARE REVIEWING THE ACTUAL TRANSCRIPT OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE AND WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH THE TEXT OR EXCERPTS TOMORROW.

2. QUESTION. HAS THE PRESIDENT GIVEN AMBASSADOR BUNKER INSTRUCTIONS TO GIVE UP THE PANAMA CANAL ZONE AS RONALD REAGAN AND CONGRESSMAN SNYDER CHARGE? ANSWER. NO.

3. QUESTION. WELL, WHAT DO BUNKER'S INSTRUCTIONS SAY? ANSWER. HIS INSTRUCTIONS ARE BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES AGREED TO MORE THAN TWO YEARS AGO BY THE UNITED STATES AND PANAMA. THESE WERE PUBLISHED AT THE TIME AND HAVE BEEN AVAILABLE EVER SINCE. AS PRESIDENT FORD HAS STATED RE-PEATEDLY, ANY NEW TREATY MUST GUARANTEE CONTINUED
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 090293

AMERICAN RESPONSIBILITY IN THE OPERATION AND DEFENSE OF THE

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

CANAL, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME, SEEKING TO RESOLVE THE OUT-
STANDING ISSUES BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE REPUBLIC
OF PANAMA.
4. QUESTION. YOU DIDN'T REALLY ANSWER THE QUESTION. WHAT
ARE BUNKER'S INSTRUCTIONS? ANSWER. YOU CAN GET THE PRIN-
CIPLES ISSUED IN 1974 FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT, OR I CAN
GET YOU A COPY. AMBASSADOR BUNKER'S INSTRUCTIONS ARE
BASED ON THOSE PRINCIPLES.

5. QUESTION. YOU KEEP SAYING THE PRESIDENT WILL NEVER
GIVE UP THE DEFENSE OR OPERATION OF THE CANAL. BUT
BUNKER'S TESTIMONY INDICATES THAT HE IS NEGOTIATING TO DO
JUST THAT. ANSWER. I DON'T KNOW WHAT INTERPRETATION
YOU PLACE ON A SMALL PORTION OF BUNKER'S TESTIMONY. I
CAN ASSURE YOU THAT ANY NEW TREATY WITH PANAMA WILL
GUARANTEE THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL MAINTAIN ITS VITAL
INTERESTS IN THE OPERATION AND DEFENSE OF THE CANAL.

6. QUESTION. FOR HOW LONG? ANSWER. FOR THE DURATION OF THE
TREATY, AT LEAST, WHATEVER THE TREATY PROVIDES FOR.

7. QUESTION. IN OTHER WORDS, YOU ARE NEGOTIATING FOR U.S.
OPERATION AND DEFENSE OF THE CANAL TO END AT SOME TIME IN
THE FUTURE? ANSWER. YOU MUST NOT BE FAMILIAR WITH THE
BACKGROUND ON THIS, SINCE THAT ISSUE HAS BEEN A MATTER
OF PUBLIC RECORD SINCE 1964. NOTHING HAS CHANGED SINCE THE
PRINCIPLES WERE ANNOUNCED PUBLICLY IN 1974. ALSO, I WANT
TO REMIND YOU THAT THE THREE PRESIDENTS WHO HAVE CONDUCTED
THESE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE CONSULTED WITH CONGRESS RIGHT
ALONG, AND OF COURSE, PRESIDENT FORD IS CONTINUING THOSE
CONSULTATIONS. WHEN ANY TREATY IS AGREED UPON, HE WOULD
SUBMIT IT TO THE SENATE FOR RATIFICATION. BUT NO TREATY
WILL BE AGREED TO UNLESS IT SAFEGUARDS U.S. INTERESTS IN
THE CANAL AND GUARANTEES OUR INTERESTS IN THE OPERATION
AND DEFENSE OF THE CANAL.

8. FYI: FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT RELEASED BY CONGRESS-
MAN METCALFE ON APRIL 13. BEGIN QUOTE. MR. SNYDER HAS
CHOSEN TO RELEASE SOME VERY SENSITIVE INFORMATION CONCERN-
ING ONGOING TREATY NEGOTIATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES. I
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 090293

REGRET THAT THE RANKING MINORITY MEMBER OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE
HAS CHOSEN TO MAKE SENSITIVE TREATY NEGOTIATIONS A PARTISAN
ISSUE. THE PRESIDENT WILL SUBMIT THE TREATY TO THE SENATE
AT THE PROPER TIME. AT THAT TIME, THERE WILL BE A DEBATE
AND A VOTE, AS IS CUSTOMARY AND IN ACCORD WITH DEMOCRATIC
AND CONSTITUTIONAL PRACTICES IN THIS COUNTRY. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, CANALS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE090293
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RBHOWARD:BK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760142-0205
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760461/aaaabzmf.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUL 2004 by MartinML>; APPROVED <02 NOV 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WHITE HOUSE BRIEFING
TAGS: PFOR, PN, US
To: PANAMA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006